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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,894	10/19/2001	Ing-Britt Magnusson	112137 ARE	7314

466 7590 12/03/2002

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3761

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,894

Applicant(s)

MAGNUSSON ET AL.

Examiner

C. Lynne Anderson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the region" in line 19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the liquid permeable surface layer material" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the liquid permeable surface layer material" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the liquid impermeable surface layer material" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the liquid impermeable surface layer material" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the

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treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by
Martin (6,186,996).

Martin discloses an absorbent product 1, as shown in figure 1, comprising a front end 8, a rear end 9, and a crotch portion 7. The absorbent product 1 further comprises a liquid permeable surface layer 22', a liquid impermeable surface layer 2, and an absorbent body 4, as shown in figure 4. Liquid barriers 3, as shown in figure 4, extend in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent product 1. Side flaps 10 extend outside the liquid barriers 3, and comprise parts of the surface layers 22' and 2, as shown in figure 4. The liquid barriers 3 are fixed to the side flaps 10 in a region 29 between the point of attachment to the absorbent product 1 and the free edge of the liquid barrier 3, as disclosed in column 5, lines 52-54. The absorbent product 1 therefore has double raised leakage barriers, as shown in figure 4.

With respect to claim 2, the liquid barriers 3 comprise elastic elements, as disclosed in column 4, lines 14-16.

With respect to claim 3, the side flaps 10 comprise elastic elements, as disclosed in column 3, lines 63-67.

With respect to claim 4, the side flaps comprise liquid barrier material, the liquid impermeable surface layer 2.

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With respect to claim 5, the side flaps 10 comprise parts of the liquid permeable surface layer 22', as shown in figure 4.

With respect to claim 8, the side flaps 10 comprise parts of the liquid impermeable surface layer 2, as shown in figure 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (6,186,996) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yamamoto et al. (5,607,416).

Martin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of both the liquid barriers and the side flaps comprising the liquid permeable surface layer and the liquid impermeable surface layer.

Yamamoto discloses an absorbent product 1, as shown in figure 1, comprising a liquid permeable surface layer 3, a liquid impermeable surface layer 4, and an absorbent body 5. The absorbent product 1 further comprises liquid barriers 7 and side flaps 11, as shown in figure 1. Both the liquid barriers 7 and the side flaps 11 comprise the liquid permeable surface layer 3 and the liquid impermeable surface layer 4, as shown in figure 2. Forming the liquid barriers 7 and side flaps 11 from the liquid

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permeable surface layer 3 and the liquid impermeable surface layer 4 obviates the need for an additional piece of material and thus reduces the cost of manufacturing.

It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to form the liquid barriers of Martin from the liquid permeable surface layer and the liquid impermeable surface layer, as taught by Yamamoto, in order to reduce the amount of material needed to construct the absorbent product.

Conclusion

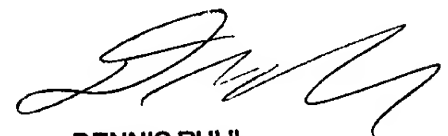
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (703) 308-1957. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3590 for regular communications and (703) 306-4520 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

CNA
cla

November 22, 2002



DENNIS RUHL
PRIMARY EXAMINER